

REMARKS

Claims 13-25 are pending. Claims 1-12 have been cancelled in a previously-filed paper. Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. Claims 14-16, 18, and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 17, 19-23, and 25 have been objected to. Claims 14 and 17 have been cancelled herein. Claims 13, 15, 16, and 18-25 remain for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to claims 17, 19-23, and 25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter and have accordingly incorporated the subject matter of claim 17 and the subject matter of claim 14 (the intervening claim) into claim 13 in an effort to accept the allowable subject matter. Claims 15, 16, 18, 20, and 21 have also been amended to properly depend from claim 13.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Patent No. GB 2,293,476 (hereinafter “the ‘476 patent”). Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s reasons for the rejection of claim 13 and maintain that claim 13 is allowable in its unamended form. However, the Examiner’s rejection of claim 13 is moot further to the Applicants’ decision to accept the allowable subject matter as indicated above.

Claims 14-16, 18, and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘476 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,480,181 to Fisher (hereinafter “Fisher”).

The subject matter of claim 14 has been incorporated into claim 13, and claim 14 has been cancelled as indicated above.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s reasons for the rejections of claims 14-16, 18, and 24 and maintain that these claims are allowable in their unamended forms. However, the Examiner’s rejections of claims 14-16, 18, and 24 are moot further to the Applicants’ decision to accept the allowable subject matter as indicated above.

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein are allowable. An early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Applicants believe that no fees are due with the submission of this Amendment. If any charges are incurred with respect to this Amendment, they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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